

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 7, 18 and 21 as follows:

1 Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a first user
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client
5 information as a client record in a database;
6 the first web server directing a client to access a resource at the
7 second Web-Server;
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client
9 record in the database;
10 the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving the
11 client record from the database; and
12 the second web server using the client record in conjunction with a
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first and
2 the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the user client
3 information.

1 Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web
2 server authenticates the client, and the client record includes user
3 authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common sign-on
4 with the sign-on of the first web server.

1 Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web
2 server stores within the client record at least one parameter which
3 determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent to the
4 client by the second web server.

1 Claim 5. (currently amended) A method as recited in 1 4, wherein said
2 at least one parameter includes at least one user preference.

1 Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at least
2 one user preference is related to at least one detected purchasing habit.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3 server in a second DNS domain,
4 enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie information;
5 and

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6 coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;
7 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and
8 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information
9 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step
2 of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to said first
3 and second Web-Servers.

1 Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising
2 providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and second Web-
3 Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1 Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step
2 of enabling includes the first web server setting a first cookie having a
3 first identity and the second web server setting a second cookie having a
4 second identity, and the step of coordinating maps the first and second
5 identities to a third identity shared across said first and second domains.

1 Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:
2 means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a
3 second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a
4 first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the
5 client information as a client record in a database;
6 means for the first web server directing a client to access a resource
7 at the second web server;
8 means for said resource encapsulating information about a location of
9 the client record in the database;
10 means for the second web server decapsulating the location and
11 retrieving the client record from the database; and
12 means for the second web server using the client record in conjunction
13 with a second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
7 effect the steps of claim 1.

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1 Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
7 effect the steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:
2 employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second user
3 tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a first user
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client
5 information as a client record in a database;
6 the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at the
7 second user tracker;
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client
9 record in the database;
10 the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving the
11 client record from the database; and
12 the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction with a
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the
4 steps of claim 1.

1 Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3 perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps comprising the
4 steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein
3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server maintains a first

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4 private cookie at a browser and the second web server maintains a second
5 private cookie at the browser;
6 accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is
7 received by the first web-server; and;
8 mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second
9 identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common across the
10 multiple domains;
11 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and
12 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information
13 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further
2 comprising:
3 using the single identity to look up the identity of users across the
4 different domains, and
5 the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various cookies that
6 are placed independently on the browser by the different servers.

1 Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the
4 steps of claim 18.

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a first
3 DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS domain;
4 said first web server having:
5 a first user tracker to collect client information and stores
6 store client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator database;
7 a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to
8 access a resource at the second web server;
9 an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate information
10 about a location of the client record in the database; and
11 said second web server having:
12 a second user tracker for the second web server to use the client
13 record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and
14 a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a
15 location and retrieving retrieve the client record from the database.
1 Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein

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3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 21.